

Change of Command at Unit 206

On July 9, 2005, aboard the Display Ship *Barry* at the Washington Navy Yard, a retirement and change of command ceremony was held honoring Captain Rodney (Rod) G. McFadden, who retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was relieved by Captain Owen J. Doherty.

Captain McFadden was the commanding officer of the Merchant Marine Reserve Operations Command Headquarters (MMROCH), Unit 206, of the U.S. Naval Reserve in Washington, DC.

MMROCH units are selected U.S. Naval Reserve units comprised of Merchant Marine Reserve (MMR) officers and enlisted staff trained to represent the Department of the Navy at the National Shipping Authority (NSA) and other government agencies concerned with the use and control of civilian shipping for military operations.

Captain McFadden graduated from the New York Maritime College (SUNY) at Fort Schuyler, NY, in 1975, with a degree in Marine Transportation and a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine license as Third Mate. He was commissioned by his father, Commander Grafton R. McFadden, USN (Retired), as an Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve, in July 1975.

From 1975 to 1984, Captain McFadden sailed as a merchant mariner aboard a wide variety of vessels including passenger, tanker, research, offshore supply, ocean towing, container, and breakbulk vessels in jobs ranging from Able Seaman to Master.

In October 1986, Captain McFadden was recalled to active duty as the Program Manager, Merchant Marine Reserve Program at Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force, New Orleans, LA.

In May 1998, he was selected as the Assistant for Merchant Marine and Maritime Affairs, Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N42E) in Washington, DC. In this capacity, he served as the MMR program sponsor, the only officer to date to have served as both Program Manager and Sponsor.



Left to Right: LCDR Kevin Krick, USNR, Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy, MARAD; CAPT Rodney G. McFadden, USNR, Marine Industrial Analyst, MARAD; and CAPT Owen J. Doherty, USNR, Special Assistant to the Maritime Administrator, MARAD.

CAPT McFadden is holding his new commission as a Captain in the United States Maritime Service.

Released from active duty in July 2001, Captain McFadden was selected as Commanding Officer, MMROCH, Unit 420, in San Francisco. During his tenure, his unit provided chemical, biological, and radiological defense (CBRD) training to over 1,000 merchant mariners and naval reservists and operational support to the National Shipping Authority, Western Region, during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Captain McFadden became the Commanding Officer of MMROCH 206 in 2003. The unit has supplied continuous support to the Naval Academy's Atlantic Patrol for Training Midshipmen and to the National Shipping Authority's Crisis Management Center in Washington, DC.

Captain McFadden is a Marine Industrial Analyst for the Maritime Administration (MARAD), and is detailed as MARAD's liaison to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Captain McFadden also is an adjunct instructor in Government at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, and in Seamanship and Navigation at the U. S. Naval Academy.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Naval Unit Commendation, and Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He is a member of the New York Maritime College's Alumni Hall of Fame, and is the Secretary of the Washington, DC, Chapter of the Alumni Association.

Captain Doherty is Special Assistant to the Maritime Administrator at MARAD.